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Please amend the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

~~Disclosed is a~~ A method for providing absence information in a telecommunication system comprising several subscribers, wherein the absence information is produced and captured by ~~means of a first subscriber on a first terminal which is associated with said subscriber.~~ The presence information is then transmitted to a switching node and stored therein. The switching node transmits the absence information to a second subscriber terminal ~~which is associated with a second subscriber~~ such that the absence information is continuously available. ~~The known performance characteristics~~ absence text and station guarding services ~~of a telecommunication system~~ are used in order to produce and store absence information.